

REMARKS

Claims 7, and 9-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 7, 9 and 11-12 are amended with support from the specification at pages 3-4. The specification on page 7 is amended for a grammatical error. Figs. 1-3 are amended to indicate an element. Claim 12 is amended to recite proper structure. Claim 8 is canceled. No new matter is added.

I. Objection to Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings for failing to include the reference sign of element 1 for the artificial vision system, mentioned in the specification on pages 5-6. Corrected drawing sheets are provided for Figs. 1-3. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

II. Objection to the Specification

The specification is objected to for the phrase "hided with" on page 7. The phrase "hided with" has been changed to "hidden by." Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 7 is rejected for failing to include essential cooperative relationships of elements. Claim 7 has been amended to include structure to produce stimulation pulses and to generate an image.

Claim 12 is rejected for inferentially reciting the primary and secondary coils. The Office Action asserts that claim 7 discloses these features. However, claim 7 does not recite

these features, and is not required to recite a primary and secondary coil. Claim 12 has been amended to positively recite these features.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the phrase "to be implanted in an eye," in claim 7 and the phrase "to be implanted in the body," in claim 9 positively recite a human body part, and thus are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse.

In both instances, the claims do not recite the eye and the body as part of the system of claims 7 and 9. The claims merely recite how the components, such as the electrode, are to be used. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yagi (US Patent Publication Number 2004/0102843). Since claim 8 is canceled, the rejection is moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the remaining claims.

Claim 7 is amended to recite "a plurality of separate electrodes which are to be implanted in an eye of the patient so as to individually stick in an optic papilla of the patient's eye, each electrode having a predetermined length so that its end is placed in an optic nerve of the eye when the electrode is stuck in the optic papilla, wherein the electrodes after being stuck in the optic papilla outputs an electric stimulation signal based on a signal for stimulation pulse."

Yagi, at paragraph [0062], discloses an artificial eye system, whereby an electrode unit 19 is embedded in a retina, and an electrode 11 is used to electrically stimulate the cells constituting the retina. However, an electrode unit embedded in a retina does not disclose

electrodes that are attached to an optic papilla. Also, Yagi does not disclose electrodes that output an electric stimulation signal to the optic nerve. Instead, Yagi, at paragraph [0065] stimulates the retina. Because Yagi does not disclose the amended features, Yagi does not anticipate all the features of claim 7. Thus, claim 7 is allowable. Because claim 7 is allowable, dependent claims 9-12 are likewise allowable for at least reasons discussed above in connection with claim 7 as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 7, and 9-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:AQB/hjr

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Replacement Sheets

Date: August 21, 2008

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